

## ***New pilot program—***

# **Farmable Wetlands in CRP**

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Farm Service Agency  
Des Moines, Iowa  
June 2001



### ***What***

A new pilot program will allow landowners and operators to enroll small wetland areas and adjacent buffers in the continuous signup of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

### ***Where***

Iowa is one of only six states in the nation to participate in the pilot program, Farmable Wetlands in CRP. Other states include North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Montana. Up to 100,000 acres may be enrolled in Iowa.

### ***When***

The signup will be continuous from June 4, 2001 to December 31, 2002. Landowners and operators may sign up at local USDA Service Centers.

### ***What's Eligible***

#### ***Cropped wetlands.***

Must have been cropped or considered cropped in at least 3 of the past 10 years, and physically and legally capable of being cropped. Must be wetlands, farmed wetlands or prior converted cropland, 5 acres or less in size. Wetlands in the floodplain of a perennial stream will not be eligible.

#### ***Adjacent buffers.***

The acreage needed for wetland protection is not to exceed 3 times the wetland acres, or the maximum buffer width of 150 ft. from the wetland edge, whichever is greater. The minimum buffer width is 30 ft.

### ***Benefits***

This pilot program will provide financial incentives while helping to improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat.



***Look familiar?***

***Now there's a new USDA option to help landowners' pocketbooks and natural resources.***

### ***Technical Assistance***

NRCS is responsible for determining wetland size, whether or not location is within the floodplain, and assisting with development of a conservation plan for wetland restoration.

### ***Financial Assistance***

#### ***Rental rate***

Participant receives the CRP continuous signup rental rate; a 20 percent (of the calculated soil rental rate) incentive payment; and a maintenance payment of \$5/acre/year.

#### ***Cost Share***

Participant receives 50 percent of the eligible costs of practice installation.

#### ***Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)***

Participant receives a one-time payment of 40 percent of the eligible costs of practice installation.

#### ***Signup Incentive Payment (SIP)***

Participant receives a one-time payment of \$10 X # acres X # full years of the contract.

### ***Contracts***

Participant may choose a 10 to 15 year contract.

### ***Maintenance***

There is a requirement for wetland and practice maintenance through the life of the contract.

### ***Acreage Maximums***

- Pilot: 500,000 acres, 6 states.
- Iowa: 100,000 acres.
- Each wetland area: 5 acres.
- Each adjacent buffer: 3 times the wetland acres or the maximum buffer width of 150 ft., whichever is greater.
- Enrolled wetland and adjacent buffer per tract: 40 acres. Participants may have multiple contracts if they have multiple tracts.



*The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

## Restoration

A conservation plan will be developed detailing the hydrology restoration which is required. NRCS will determine the extent that is technically feasible. Vegetative cover must be established on the buffer area. Restoration cannot impede upstream drainage. At contract expiration, drainage may be restored to conditions that existed at time of enrollment. USDA cost share for restoration activities is currently available.

## Grazing

Incidental (after-harvest) grazing will be allowed as part of gleaning adjacent cropland, but will include a payment reduction of 25 percent. No grazing will be allowed May 15 - August 1.

## Questions?

Contact your FSA or NRCS staff at your local USDA Service Center.

### A Closer Look at the Pocketbook

#### Rental Payment

<u>          </u> A	Rent— \$/ac/yr (weighted average rental rates of 3 soils)
+ <u>          </u> B	Bonus— rental rate (A) X 20%
+ <u>          </u> C	Maintenance payment— \$5/ac/yr
<u>          </u> D	Rental payment (A + B + C)— \$/ac/yr

#### Cost share

<u>          </u> E	Cost of installation of eligible practices X 50%
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#### Incentives

##### Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)

<u>          </u> F	Cost of installation of eligible practices X 40%
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##### Signup Incentive Payment (SIP)

<u>          </u> G	\$10 X # ac. X # full yrs. of contract
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#### Total \$\$\$

<u>          </u>	Total rental payment (D X #ac. X #yrs.)
+ <u>          </u>	Cost share (E)
+ <u>          </u>	Practice Incentive Payment (F)
+ <u>          </u>	Signup Incentive Payment (G)
<u>          </u>	<b>Total \$\$\$ Received During Life of Contract</b>

*On the right is an example, which is based on Story County soil rental rates for Okoboji silty clay loam and Canisteo silty clay loam.*

*A landowner offers 2 ac. of farmable wetlands and 6 ac. of buffers (8 ac. total) for a 10 yr. contract.*

#### Rental Payment

<u>\$ 147/ac/yr</u> A	Rent— \$/ac/yr (weighted average rental rates of 3 soils)
+ <u>\$ 29/ac/yr</u> B	Bonus—rental rate (A) X 20% (\$147/ac/yr X 20%)
+ <u>\$ 5/ac/yr</u> C	Maintenance payment— \$5/ac/yr
<u>\$181/acre/yr</u> D	Rental payment— \$/ac/yr

#### Cost share

<u>\$ 2,500</u> E	\$5,000 (Cost of installation of eligible practices) X 50%
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#### Incentives

##### Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)

<u>\$ 2,000</u> F	\$5,000 (Cost of installation of eligible practices) X 40 %
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##### Signup Incentive Payment (SIP)

<u>\$ 800</u> G	\$10 X # ac. X # full yrs. of contract (\$10 X 8 ac. X 10 yrs.)
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#### Total \$\$\$

<u>\$14,480</u>	Total rental payment (D X #ac. X #yrs.) (\$181/ac/yr X 8 ac. X 10 yrs.) <i>Paid annually at \$1,448/yr.</i>
+ <u>\$ 2,500</u>	Cost share (E) <i>Paid at practice completion.</i>
+ <u>\$ 2,000</u>	Practice Incentive payment (F) <i>Paid at practice completion.</i>
+ <u>\$ 800</u>	Signup Incentive Payment (G) <i>Paid at contract approval.</i>
<u>\$19,780</u>	<b>Total \$\$\$ Received During Life of Contract</b>



